

### Email to students

Greetings Group 1,

Are you ready to hold hands and do some bonding, at least, virtually?

This week's seminar we will be looking at Online Community and Social Presence based on Karen Kear's Chapter 6 concepts on Feeling Connected.

The activities will be conducted completely asynchronously.

We have created a seminar website <http://oltD503.mcdhaliwal.ca>

Please go to the Welcome tab first then cruise through our slide show which will outline the tasks for this week.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Jean or Sonny, we can be reached via email:

Jean: [jeankloppenburg@hotmail.com](mailto:jeankloppenburg@hotmail.com)

Sonny: [d\\_sonny@hotmail.com](mailto:d_sonny@hotmail.com)

During this week we are going to be focusing on *doing and creating*. We hope that you will find the activities enjoyable, and perhaps by the end of it, will all know each other a little bit better.

Here's to great week!

Jean and Sonny ☺

PS: If you have difficulties accessing the website, please update your flash that should fix any issues

### Welcome – Intro on slideshow

*Rehash some of the email to student and a little bit of theory in???*

Hi Group 1,

Are you ready to hold hands and do some bonding, at least virtually?

This week's seminar we will be looking at Online Community and Social Presence based on Karen Kear's Chapter 6 concepts on Feeling Connected.

The activities will be conducted completely asynchronously.

Feeling connected has two parts:

Online community – means to what extent an online learner feels a sense of community

Social presence – the degree to which a person is perceived as 'real' in mediated communication

A sense of community in an online course helps overcome isolation, increases student satisfaction and retention and supports learning.

During this week we are going to be focusing on *doing and creating*.

We hope that you will find the activities enjoyable, and perhaps by the end of it, will all know each other a little bit better.

### Activity 1 – web directory

In the first activity we are going to create a directory so that we can easily access everyone's personal webspace.

What you are required to do is:

- Provide 2 profile pics (normal and funny pose)
  - If you don't feel comfortable posting your personal picture please send a generic photo
- Audio recording of salutation
  - Use any audio recording program you have available, please save file in mp3 format
  - If you don't have access to an audio recording program you can use <http://vocaroo.com/>
  - If experiencing technical difficulties, please call sonny at 1-800-663-3381 ext2464 and leave your salutation as a voicemail (sometimes low tech is the easiest)
- Create a blog page called "simply me" on your weebly website

- You just need a place holder for now, in activity 2 we will be using this space
- Email Sonny ([d\\_sonny@hotmail.com](mailto:d_sonny@hotmail.com)) your photos and salutation the direct link to your weebly page.

Due date for activity 1: Monday February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013

## **Activity 2** – simply me –personal introduction

### **Part 1**

In this activity we will be using your Simply Me webpage to create a personal profile. This is a place where your fellow OLTD classmates will get a chance to know you, and not necessarily the professional you, but the everyday you.

This is a fairly open-ended activity and we wanted to allow you the room and flexibility to be creative in describing who you are. What you place in this blog is up to you; just keep the objective of the activity in mind.

A suggested use of the space:

Place 4 -5 pictures that represent who you are (i.e. profile pic, hobbies, family.. etc)

Create a short paragraph describing who you are/comments on the pictures

- Display as much information as you are comfortable in doing so

Place links to a couple of favorite websites you like to visit.

We have created exemplars; you can view Jean and Sonny's personal webspace by using the directory in the seminar website.

Due date: Wednesday?? So others can read and comment or should we just say Saturday? We could have a due date by Saturday and then blog comments can be done on Saturday.

### **Part2**

On Saturday, have a look through your fellow classmates' personal webspace and add a comment on one of your choice

## **Activity 3** – Voice Thread

Go to Voicethread <https://voicethread.com/>

Click on Get Started with Voicethread and register a new account (it is free). Please use a picture of yourself or a personal icon that depicts you.

Click on the link or paste the URL in your browser. Go to "Fishing in Summertime" slide 2. You will see three children fishing on a dock.

<https://voicethread.com/#u3472975.b4021030.i20631524>

Respond to the photograph with either a voicethread or video. What memories does this photograph conjure up for you? If you draw a blank at first, listening to the other members' messages may help you share a response.

By the end of our seminar week, we will have a page full of shared memories that may bring a smile to some and maybe a reminiscent sigh to another, but certainly an added element to create a closer bond with our group.

JEAN: If a student decides to post a photo, how is he/she going to share the link with the class.... Should we make a place for that in D2L discussion form?

In Voicethread, the group signs up with the link I email or link I post. Maybe we can have all links for the week in an intro in D2L? Can we put a link in the slide for activity 3 also?

#### **Activity 4** – discussion Forum

How would you build community, what ice breaker activity would you use for an online classroom?

Do you think this week could have been better enhanced, if so how so

#### **Activity 5**– Survey

Is online contact with other students in the course important to you?

Is it important to you to feel part of a community of students on the course you are studying?

Practically speaking, as a graduate student, do you have the time for interactions necessary to develop community and presence?

Can you gain a sense of community through online communication?

Do you think synchronous communication facilities in an online course environment can help to create a sense of community?

Did you provide a profile picture?

If not, why not?

Did you look at other student's profiles? If we are asking to post a comment to at least one blog, the question could be "how many blogs did you view on Saturday?"

If not, why not?

If so, was it helpful and in what ways?

What activities did you find helpful?

What activities could you have lived without?

Other comments?

#### **Activity 6** – Readings (optional)

Why not schynrous

- Not enough notice to fellow classmates
- We are summarizing, which can be done in other ways.... We did not want to be lecturing
- Modeling building community in async setting

Mary – skype @7pm Monday(jean will setup)

Activity –intro

Intro to the week

Survey Q

Discussion Q

Optional Reading

